

APPENDIX B

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Objections to Claims 10 and 15 have been overcome

Claims 10 and 15 were objected to. It appears, however, that the examiner intended to object to claims 12 and 15. Claims 12 and 15 have been amended to include a space between “of” and “fibrinogen” and “of” and “acenocoumarol,” respectively. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the objections have been overcome.

Claims 7, 9-12, 14, 15 and 19-30

Claims 7, 9-12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,338,739 to Datta et al. (“Datta”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,833,651 to Donovan et al. (“Donovan”) or U.S. Patent No. 5,788,979 to Alt et al. (“Alt”). Claims 7, 9-12, 14 and 15 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,766,209 to Devonec (“Devonec”) in view of Donovan. The rejections were set forth by the Examiner in the Final Office Action dated September 18, 2007. The Examiner rejected the Applicant’s arguments for patentability in the Advisory Action dated December 4, 2007. While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s rejections, in order to advance prosecution, the claims have been amended.

Independent claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable

Independent claim 7 as amended recites "...a connecting segment disposed between the first and second segments and coupling together the first and second segments, the connecting segment being a solid member...." The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references (including Datta, Donovan, Alt and Devonec), alone or in proper combination, do not disclose or suggest a stent as recited by independent claim 7. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 7, and its dependent claims, are patentable.

Independent claim 21 and its dependent claims are allowable

Newly added independent claim 21 recites "... a connecting segment disposed between the first and second segments and coupling together the first and second segments, the connecting segment being devoid of a lumen...." The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references (including Datta, Donovan, Alt and Devonec), alone or in proper combination, do not disclose or suggest a stent as recited by independent claim 21. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21, and its dependent claims, are patentable.